The Talk's Bright in 'Jane' But the Play Grows Dull

By Jay Carmody

NEW YORK. You would think a matinee audience would be the one with Bridge"; 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, which to see "Jane," the inspired Somerset Maugham story which has been enlarged and remodeled as a comedy for Broadway by 6:10 and 8:55 p.m. S. N. Behrman.

Made in

Japan

Prize-Winning

'Rashomon' Is

Dramatic Fare

The Cast.

Bandit Toshiro Mifune
Woman Michiko Kyo
Man Masayuki Mori
Firewood Dealer Takashi Shimura
Priest Minoru Chiaki
Commoner Kichijiro Ueda
Medium Fumiko Homma
Police Daisuke Kato

By Harry MacArthur

expecting of an Oriental cast.

On the other hand, it is acted

Now it is the Japanese who

Matinee audiences, unlike any other kind it seems, are almost childishly eager to be pleased. So. frankly, was this roving critic with regard to "Jane." It always has been a favorite—this tale of middle-aged frump who took midd frankly, was this roving critic London society by storm—and he also lived for years with the notion that it would make a delightful comedy.

Well, it did not work out that way. The matinee audience seemed charmed by Maugham and Behrman, and by Edna Best, Basil Rathbone and the other players. However, not even his old enthusiasm for Jane's piquant personality evoked any echo for the retouching job produced by the Theater Guild at the Coronet on West Forty-ninth street.

"Jane" turns out to be pretty much a thin and wavering little comedy which not even the most nobly intentioned acting can in-"RASHOMON," a Diaei picture, produced by Diaei, directed by Achira Curosawa, screenplay by Rjunosuche Acutagawa. At the Dupont. fuse with the sharp wit on which the Maugham original impaled so sawa. many society types he dislikes. True, many of Jane's shrewd and shudderingly honest comments on London's aristocrats and their manners are amusing. Nevertheless, even these suffer from an apparent recent excess of Shaw and Wilde. These two leave even a playwright of Behrman's cleverness little to sound like save a come along with evidence of a talented parrot.

Had the latter written a struc-flourishing talent for film-making turally better play and one that in "Rashomon," at the Dupont. might have been more invitingly Grand prize winner at the 1951 directed by Cyril Ritchard, this Venice Film Festival, "Rashomon" judgment might sound like sheer churlishness. Behrman's new is an impressive motion picture, setting for "Jane" is nothing like handsomely photographed and so congenial as the original, how- acted with a great deal more verve ever. Some unhappy consequences than you are likely to have been will have to go with that. * * * *

The heroine of "Jane" is the with so much verve at times that same lovable, provincial mouse— it may strike you as just plain with the tongue of a tigress—silly, which is a chance you'll have Maugham created. To sustain a to take. full length play, however, it has The Japanese do not deal with been necessary to give her more frothy subjects in their photothings to be up to. Hence, in ad-dition to leveling London's top not done so here. Man's inhuman-not done so here. playfellows with her merciless ity to man and the possibility honesty, she has taken on the ad-ditional tasks here of rescuing for him in spite of it all is the two pairs of lovers and redeeming subject under scrutiny in "Rashomodule-aged roue from the health hazards of philandering.

It is examined by way of a forest.

There is something funny about rather violent incident in a forest a concern for the physical well- 1,200 years ago, in a time of strife being of roues on the part of a and famine. The film opens with widow of equal age but Behrman a poor woodcutter and a priest made little more of it than of the sitting in the shelter of a half-more direct, cliche-ridden Cupid ruined city gate, the rashomon, sadly pondering this cruel event. role Jane plays.

Like the heroine's, Behrman's A bandit, inflamed by the sight of greatest gift is for dialogue. The a well-turned ankle, has followed combination appears too inviting a man and his wife into the woods, for any hope of action in "Jane." ravished the wife and killed the Director Ritchard, another won-husband. derful hand at talk, works out a With his capture, "Rashomon" lightning series of movements to sets about the description of the bring the characters on an off crime as seen by several different stage, and to get them from one chair to the next, but all this amounts to no more than a rest-lessness on his part. It was not lessness on his part. It was not his story, full of bravado. The long before this spectator was woman tells the same story, told caught up in the same emotion. through a writhing medium Judith Anderson would have loved

It is a sort of fashion this year to play, a form of testimony apthat the acting shall be better parently accepted in Japanese pothan the playwriting and "Jane" lice courts in 751 A. D. is an almost flagrant specimen of Finally, after these varied tales

Miss Best, as a dowdy widow of citizen who has come in out of Liverpool whose bloodlines and the rain to join the priest and money entitle her to acceptance woodcutter, the woodcutter breaks in London, is a captivating Jane down and admits that he was an despite the odds. She amuses a eyewitness to the whole affair. In handsome young architect into his account every one appears marrying her, settles down in the ridiculous, the two men getting home of her sophisticated sister- into a clumsy, animal brawl only in-law, and proceeds to become after being goaded into it by the everyone's favorite playmate ex-shricking woman, who has been cept the sister-in-law's.

Rathbone as a distinguished di-sinks lower and lower, but in the vorced author who once was head end he has his faith restored, of the house; Howard St. John as just as it would have been in a rough-cut publishing tycoon, Hollywood. Philip Friend who had the in-spiration to marry Jane, and Wil-comedy, intentionally at least, in liam Whitman as a young poet at "Rashomon," but Director Achira loose ends until he can marry Curosawa has made it an intri-

en so many of the endless con-dramatic effect, it might be noted, versations that take place in the with the throbbing of an increasthaste London drawing room. Men ing taut, Ravel-like bolero.

who like to talk about themselves more than any other sex, are headed by Toshiro Mifune, who Jane's brightest companions. She makes out very well with St. bandit, and Michiko Kyo, who has John, for all his surface resent-ment, on the theme of how ridicu-as the woman so shabbily used lous and come right down to it, by bandit and husband. how physically profligate, for middle-aged men to be courting young River" fame) who speaks for

She is good also with Friend as her young husband, a handsome, success-bound architect who will

It is not at all to the dramatic aristocrats. advantage of "Jane" that as the play's co-star, Rathbone is rather an incidental character in Miss Best's orbit. He is a realist who is delighted by her flair for ruthless honesty of judgment and truth telling, but he lies outside the range of it. He is present as a sort of commentator on the proceedings and the people involved in them and he gave at least one spectator the feeling that he was not enjoying HIMSELF either.

Much more effective use is made in "Jane" of Irene Brown in the role of Jane's sister-in-law. Miss Brown is a remarkably informed actress on the ironies implicit in contemporary manners, and on the motivations of those who make social use of these. She is a decidedly valuable asset to the conversational walkway that flows through the three acts of "Jane."

Her contribution, however, represents something of a waste, if not so much a one as lovely, highspirited Adrienne Corri (of "The

EVENING PARKING CAPITAL GARAGE 1320 N. Y. Ave. N.W. Between 18th and 14th

Where and When **Current Theater Attractions** And Time of Showing

Stage. New Gayety-"Paris '90"; 8:30

Ambassador - "Room for One More"; 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30 and 9:35 p.m. Capitol - "The Girl on the 7:15 and 10 p.m. Stage: 12:40, 3:25,

Columbia - "Quo Vadis"; 11:35 .m., 2:40, 5:45 and 8:55 p.m. Dupont-"Rasho-Mon"; 1, 2:35, Keith's-"A Girl in Every Port": 11:50 a.m., 1:50, 3:55, 5:55, 7:55

The Cast.

Ann Tower Adrienne Corri
Peter Crewe William Whitman
Wilson Al Collins
William Tower Basil Rathbone
Mrs. Millicent Tower, Irene Browne
Mrs. Jane Fowler Edna Best
Maid Sarah Marshall
Lord Alan Frobisher Howard St. John
Gilbert Dabney Philip Friend and 10 p.m. Little — "Cage of Gold"; 5:40 :05, 8:35 and 10:05 p.m. Metropolitan-"I'll See You in :30, 5:35, 7:45 and 9:55 p.m. National - "Dante's Inferno"

1:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:35, 5:35, 7:40 tions"; 11:05 a.m., 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, and 9:45 p.m. Dawn"; 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:45, 7:20 Trans-Lux—"The Well"; 11:20

and 9:55 p.m. Pix — "Hitler's Strange Love and 9:45 p.m. Life"; 2:25, 4:15, 6:05, 7:55 and Warner—"Room for One More"; 9:40 p.m. 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:45 9:40 p.m. Playhouse - "Great Expecta- and 9:45 p.m.

HEADLINER-Roberta Quinlan, television singing star, is My Dreams"; 11:15 a.m., 1:20, featured in the new stage show at the Capitol Theater.

7:20 and 9:25 p.m. Ontario — "Detective Story"; Plaza — "The Lavender Hill :30, 3:40, 5:50, 7:50 and 10 p.m. Mob"; 10:50 a.m., 12:25, 2, 3:35, Palace — "Decision Before 5:15, 6:50, 8:30 and 10:05 p.m. a.m., 1:05, 2:50, 4:35, 6:15, 8

AMUSEMENTS. AMUSEMENTS. PATRICK HAYES CONCERTS,

THIS SAT., FEB. 9-8:30 P.M. Constitution Hall

Seats: \$1.80, \$2.40, \$3.00, \$3.60 MON., FEB. 11-8:30 P.M. Constitution Hall

WITH ALL THE PENNSYLVANIANS

Benefit Alexandria Hospital-Seats, \$1.80, \$2.50, \$3.25, \$3.75 HAYES CONCERT BUREAU (in Campbell Music Co.) Steinway Piano 1108 G St. N.W.

TWO GRAND LAUGH HITS ... "THE LATE

GEORGE APLEY" Vanessa Brown, Peggy Cummins

BROUGHT BACK IN RESPONSE TO MANY REQUESTS

> TYRONE GENE POWER TIERNEY "THAT **WONDERFUL URGE"**



ALEC GUINNESS

BOSTON

Symphony Orchestra

CHARLES MUNCH, Music Director

ERNEST

ANSERMET

GUEST CONDUCTOR

Thursday, February 14

8:30 P.M.

CONSTITUTION HALL

\$2.40, \$3.00, \$3.60, & Bez Seats, \$6.0

SNOW CONCERT BUREAU

1108 G St. N.W. (In Campbell Music Co.) REpublic 4433 Hours 10:00-5:30

Only 7 more nights-2 Mats

EVES. 8:30 P.M. MATS. 2:15 P.M.

Saturdays and Sundays

Res. Seats: \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$3.60 incl. tax. Tickets on sale at Uline Arena box of-fice and The Fairway, 1328 G St. N.W.

\$1.25 General Admission Tickets on

sale every performance at the Arena,

ULINE ARENA

"Cavalleria Rusticana"

"CARMEN"

Columbia Opera

Rthyl Manning, Director CAFRITZ AUDITORIUM

THURS.-SAT., FEB. 7 & 9. 8:30 Seats 1.50-2.00

Tonight and Saturday

WILLARD HOTEL TICKET AGENCY

abandoned by both of them. They are held spellbound, Basil Through it all the priest's heart Roth's PLAZA M. Y. AVE. AT 14 - ST 4777

guing picture, occasionally an ex-Miss Best puts a pretty sheen citing one. He accents a lot of his

have been recounted to a cynical

young love in the chorus of older voices echoing middle-aged dis-

illusionment. Elfi Van Kantzow designed the not listen to her when she sug-set for "Jane" and no one could gests their mutual enchantment ask for a more congenial and cozy play pen for London's prewar

AMUSEMENTS.

NATIONAL Spencer Claire TRACY TREVOR HAYWORTH

PIL STREET BETWEEN F& G

HELD OVER-GREAT EXPECTATIONS JOHN MILLS

MUZAK MUSIC A Listening Pleasure
While You DINE SHOP WORK CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES

BOORS OPEN 10:00 MAPPIE 5-46:

PLAYHOUSE—15th and H RE. 4050





GROUCHO MARX MARIE WILSON WILLIAM BENDIX

KEITH'S ISTH OPEN 10:45 A.M. SUN. 12:30 P.M.



LAST DAY FOR MITTERS OF PROPER

EUGENE ORMANDY,

Music Director Tues., Feb. 12-8:30 P.M. CONSTITUTION HALL ALEXANDER

SBERG

Grand \ Venice Film Festival
Popular PRICES 1832 CORN AVE
Distort 7500 SNOW CONCERT BUREAU 1108 G St. N.W. (In Campbell's Music Co.)

OSKAR WERNER - HILDEGARDE NEFF. CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES
Open 10:45 . Last Feature 9 P.M. **NEW GAYETY TONITE 8:30**

MATINEE SATURDAY



2 WEEKS BEG. MON. SEATS NOW ERMIT BLOOMGARDEN FLORENCE

LILLIAN HELLMAN'S Success
the Autumn Garden

THE PART OF THE PARTY.

AMUSEMENTS.

Laughs Throughout"

... A Lilting and

JAMES O'NEILL. JR.

Daily News

AMUSEMENTS.

DOUGLAS PARKER BENDIX

Detective Story

FIRST SHOW AT 1 P.M. ONTARIO 17th & Oal MA. LAST FEATURE AT 10

CONSTITUTION HALL

SATURDAY, FEB. 16, 8:30 P.M.

Benefit Show for United Cerebral Palsy Assn.

THE CONCERT OF THE YEAR

Featuring

CARMEN, VICTOR, and LEBERT LOMBARDO

KENNY GARDNER

BILL FLANNIGAN . KENNY MARTIN

THE LOMBARDO TRIO . THE TWIN PIANOS

That Pickup

GIRL IS

BACK!

She's

man-bait

and murder!

ANATOLE

LITVAK

"The Snake Pil

TQDAY-2:30 P.M.

LISNER AUDITORIUM

Patrice

MUNSEL

NATIONAL SYMPHONY

HOWARD MITCHELL

Purcell: Trumpet Voluntary; Haydn: Symphony No. 87; Mozart Arias (Miss Munsel): Rimsky; Korsakov: Excerpts from "The Telephone"; Thrance; Nor-wegian Echo Song; Puccini: Mi Chia-mano Mimi from "La Boheme" (Miss Munsel); Ibert: Divertissement.

Seats on sale now at Kitt's, 1330 G St. N.W. Phone: NA. 7332. Prices: \$1.20, 1.50, 2.10, 2.40, 3.00, 3.60. Lisner Anditorium. Box Office open today, 1:00 p.m.

BEST MUDEST FILM EVER PRODUCE

UNASHAMED

- FIRE

FRESTING, WELL-MADE

Conductor

AN ALL STAR REVIEW!

Prices: \$1.75, \$2.50, \$3.00-Patron Section and Box Seats: \$5 and \$16.

Tickets on Sale at the 3 SUPER MUSIC STORES 1350 F St. N.W.-1327 H St. N.E.-1110 7th St. N.W.

CHAMP

BUTLER

Your New Singing Sensation

ROBERTA QUINLAN

Star of NBC Television

JOEY BISHOP

'That Unhappy Humorist"

JIM & MILDRED

MULCAYS

In A Musical Novelty

LANE & CLAIRE

"Fighting for The Funnies"

SAM JACK KAUFMAN

& Famous Capitol Theatre Orch

Now Showing Here's the new year's No. 1 maker of merriment!

... Good One For ...A Splendid Share of 'Family Movie Night," ORVAL HOPKINS

HARRY Mac ARTHUR

"... Dialogue and Action Sparkle" ERNIE SCHIER Times Herald

Cary Grant **Betsy Drake** ROOM

FOR

One Of The Best Entertainments Of Its Type You Have Ever Seen . . . OR MONEY REFUNDED



TO LOCK THE BOOR! Warner Bros. Theatres

Another Week Downtown Danny Danny Warner Bros. story of songdom's glorious Gus Kahn — and the girl who put the love in his love songs! Tel See You In

TODAY'S NEIGHBORHOOD MOVIES

"THE COMMUNITY ART CINEMA"
LAST DAY! GEORGETOWN FREDRIC MARCH JOAN BENNETT dramatic WALTER WANGER Pr

"TRADE WINDS"

HISER-BETHESDA 7414 Wis. Ave. GOOD PICTURES DESERVE ANOTHER SHOWING KENTUCKY

Starting Sat. BURT LANCASTER in

CIRCLE 2106 Pg. Ave. N.W.

RE. 0184

Brought back by popular demand.

"PEOPLE WILL TALK." with CARY
GRANT. JEANNE CRAIN. at 6:00, 8:00.
10:00. One day only.

CAROLINA 11th ond N. C. Ave. S.E.

II. 3-4471

RITA HAYWORTH. "COVER GIRL." RITA HAYWORTH. "COVER GIRL."
ERROL FLYNN, "ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN FABIAN."

PARK Savannah St. at 13th St. S.E.
1 Block off Ala. Ave. JO. 2-2233
LUCILLE BALL. "MAGIC CARPET."
STEWART GRANGER, "L'GHT TOUCH."

CREENBELT Greenbelt, Md. GR. 2222
Free Parking
Double eFature: "ELOPEMENT." CLIFTON
WEBB, 7 and 10; "WAKE ISLAND."
BRIAN DONLEVY.. 8:39. FAIRFAX Fairfax, Va. Phone 786.
"GOLDEN HORDE." DAVID FARRAR.
Also "KATIE DID IT." ANN BLYTH.

STANTON 6th and C Sts. N.E.
LI. 4-9468
DAVID FARRAR, "THE GOLDEN HORDE."
CLAUDETTE COLBERT, "LET'S MAKE
TT LEGAL,"

Prince Georges County School Closed Tomorrow! See Listings Below for Theatres with Special 2 p.m. Matinees. See Roy Rogers Feature plus Big Cartoon Show. Door Prizes courtesy George's Radio. HYATTSVILLE Maureen O'Hara.
'FLAME OF ARABY." technicolor,
1:30. 8:14. 9:58.

CHEVERLY Open 6:15. Double Frant. "Captain Blood," and Charles Coburn, "Highwayman." Last complete show 8:15.

MARLBORO Richard Base Michael O' 'Fixed Bayonets.' 7:16. 9:14.

TOMORROW SPECIAL 2 P.M.
MATINEE
"Trail of Robin Hood." plus
Sabar, the Magician on Stage.

VIERS MILL Open 6:15. Dou-retta Young, Richard Greene. "Ken-tucky" (Tech.), and Charles Coburn-Wanda Hendrix, "The Highwayman" (Color). Last complete show 8:25. MILO Groucho Marx. Jane Russell "Double Dynamite." 7:30

APEX

4813 Mass. Ave. N.W.
WO. 4000

TYRONE POWER, GENE TIERNEY.
"THAT WONDERFUL URGE." 1:25.
4:50. 8:15. RONALD COLEMAN.
PEGGY CUMMINGS. "THE LATE
GEORGE APLEY." 2:45. 6:10. 9:35.

FLOWER Piney Branch Rd. and
Flower Ave. JU. 8-8100
Doors Open 6 P.M. MAUREEN
OF ARABY in technicolor. 6:25.
9:50. Plus ERROL FLYNN. "CAPTAIN FABIAN." 8:15. Doors Open 6 P.M. ARTHUR KENNEDY PEGGY DOW. "BRIGHT VICTORY" 6:35. 9:40. JON HALL. MARIE WINDSOR. "HURRICANE ISLAND." in color, 8:20.

DOORS OPEN 6 P.M.
STERLING HAYDEN "JOURNEY INTO LIGHT" 6:25, 9:45, Plus LORETTA YOUNG "KENTUCKY," 7:55

KIRK ELEANOR BE 1:30, 3:40/5:50, 7:50, 10

For Information Call REpublic 0800 AMBASSADOR "Room for One Grant, Betsy Drake, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35. AVALON "An American in Paris."
Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron AVE. GRAND "Callaway" We no Thataway." Howard Keel 6:40. 9:40. "Golden Girl." BEVERLY "FLAME OF ARABY,"
Chandler, 7:21, 10:02, "BLOND DYNAMITE," Bowery Boys, 6:15, 8:56.

CALVERT Maureen O'Hara, Jeff
Chandler, 6:15, 7:55, 9:55. CENTRAL "An American in Paris,"
CENTRAL Gene Kelly, 11, 2:15,
5:45, 9:15, "Fury of the Conso,"
Johnny Weissmuller, 1:05, 4:35, 8:06. KENNEDY "Flame of Araby." Chandler, 6:15, 8:05, 9:55. SAVOY "Close to My Heart." Ray Guys From Texas." Jack Carson, Dennis Morgan, 8:04. SECO "Black Angel," Chas. Starrett, 9:50. "Snake River Desperado." 6:20. 8:55. SHERIDAN "Distant Drums," Gary SILVER "Flame of Araby," Mau-dler, 2:15, 4:05, 6, 7:50, 9:45. TAROMA "Captain Blood," Errel land, 7:45. "Her First Romance." Margaret O'Brien, Allen Martin, 6:35, 9:45. TIVOLI - UPTOWN "Distant Gary Cooper. Mari Aldon, 2, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:45.

WARNER BROS. THEATERS

STATE "Double Dynamite" with Groucho Marx, Prani ARLINGTON Clifton Webb is WILSON "Double Dynamite."

Groucho Marx, Frank ASHTON "Double Feature. "Close My Heart" and GLEBE Clifton Webb in "ELOPE-BUCKINGHAM "Distant Drums" with Gary Cooper.

JEFFERSON Fred MacMurray.

JEFFERSON Dorothy McGuire
in "Callaway Went Thataway." BYRD Fred MacMurray, Dorothy McGuire in "Callaway Went THE VILLAGE 1307 R. I. Ave. MAUREEN O'HARA in "THE FLAME OF ARABY" (technicolor), at 6:23, 8:04, 9:45. NEWTON 12th & Newton Sts. N.E. GARY COOPER in "Distant Drums" (technicolor), at 6:00, 7:53, 8.46. JESSE 18th & Irving Sts. N.E. DU. 9861
ROBERT RYAN in "ON DANGEROUS GROUND" at 7:38.
MARLENE DIETRICH in "DESTRY RIDES AGAIN." at 6:06, 9:26.
VERNON 3707 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alex., Vg. Al. 2424
RICHARD BASEHART in "FIXED BAYONETS." at 6:00, 7:45, 9:30.

Fairlawn Amusement Co. HIGHLAND 2533 Pa. Ave. S.E. GARY COOPER in "DISTANT DRUMS" in technicolor, at 7:00, 9:30. ATLANTIC Nichols Ave & Atlantic St. S.E. JO. 3-5000
Double Feature. STEVE COCHRAN and RUTH ROMAN in TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY" at 6:30, 9:40, SALLY FORREST and KEEFE BRASELLE in "BANNERLINE" at 8:00. CONGRESS 2931 Nichols Ave. S.E.
JO. 2-8777

Double Feature: ERROL FLYNN in a
reissue of "CAPTAIN BLOOD" at 6:18,
9:35. ANN BLYTH and MARK STEVENS in "KATIE DID IT." at 8:15. ANACOSTIA 1415 Good Hope Rd. MAUREEN O'HARA and JEPP CHAND-LER in "FLAME OF ARABY." in technicolor, at 1:00, 2:40, 4:20, 6:10, 7:55. 9:35. 7:55. 9:35.

CORAL Mariboro Pike at Dist. Line
Hi. 5151 Free Parking
MAUREEN O'HARA and JEFF CHANDLER in "PLAME OF ARABY" is
technicolor, at 6:20. 8:05. 9:55. LAUREL Lourel, Md.
Lourel 113
MAUREN O'HARA and JEFF CHANDLER in "FLAME OF ARABY" in
technicolor. at 6:10. 8:00. 10:00. CAPITOL Capital Heights, Md.

REED 1723 King St. ALex. 2445
Parking Space
AUDIE MURPHY, BEVERLY TYLER
THE CIMARRON KID." Color by VIRGINIA Memorial Blvd. & 1st St. ONTARIO 17th & Columbia Rd, N.W.

DE. 1807

At last the screen visitory. At last the screen verson of the E PEGGY DOW APPLIED Treat stage success.

"DETECTIVE STORY"

Starring

KIRK

BLEANOR

PARKER

DOUGLAS

PARKER

BENDIX

AUDIE MURPHY, BILL

MAULDIN,

"THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE."